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Senate Budget & Fiscal Review

**OUTCOMES:**        **Senate Subcommittee #3 on Health & Human Services**  
                         **Thursday, March 19 (Room 4203)**

All items were held open except for Issue 2 under the Department of Health Care Services:

**4260 Department of Health Care Services**

<b>2. Medi-Cal Estimate and Caseload</b>
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- **Motion: To approve staff recommendation (b):**
  - b. Adopt Placeholder Trailer Bill Language To Eliminate Nonemergency Emergency Room Copay.** It is recommended to adopt placeholder trailer bill language to eliminate the statutory references implementing a nonemergency emergency room copay in Medi-Cal, as this assumption has been removed from the Medi-Cal estimate. As part of the Medi-Cal estimate, the Governor's budget removes the assumption that the state would implement a copayment for nonemergency emergency room usage pursuant to AB 97 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 3, Statutes of 2011 and AB 1467 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 23, Statutes of 2012 which was expected to result in about \$34 million (\$17 million General Fund) savings. This copay has never been implemented as it had not received approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. While the budget discontinues this assumption, the Administration did not propose trailer bill language to delete this provision from statute.
- **Vote: 2-1 (Senator Stone voting no.)**